TOWN OF NEWTON BOARD MEETING

May 12, 2021

The Town Board meeting of the Town of Newton was held on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at the Newton Town Hall, 6532 Carstens Lake Road, Manitowoc, WI 54220 at 6:00 pm. pursuant to posted notices.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Denise Thomas. Present: Denise Thomas, Chairman; Kevin Behnke, Supervisor #1; Mark Knorr, Supervisor #2, Paulette Vogt, Treasurer; Barbara Pankratz, Clerk; Michael Slattery, Zoning Administrator, Dave Mueller, Road Superintendent/Law Enforcement Officer, Ed Downing, Charlie Bauer, Brad Bastian, Mike Burnside from Scott Construction, and Roger Busse.

All those present joined in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. The clerk stated that the agenda was posted in the official posting places as well as on the Town of Newton web site. Said posting was notarized. Mark Knorr made a motion to approve the agenda. Said motion was seconded by Kevin Behnke and passed.

The previous meeting minutes of were approved by motion made by Kevin Behnke and seconded by Mark Knorr. Motion carried.

The treasurer’s report was submitted to the Board previous to the meeting by e-mail. Motion was made by Kevin Behnke to approve the treasurer’s report. Said motion was seconded by Mark Knorr. Motion passed. The treasurer had no further input.

Public input was opened. Roger Busse stated that Denise had indicated that the road budget was $250,000. and it should have been $265,000. Denise stated that she was aware of that but was deducting the excavator, crack filling and striping which would leave $250,000.

Public in-put was closed and Chairman Thomas indicated that there would be no further public in-put from the floor unless the Board would ask any attendee for answers to questions.

Dave Mueller, Road Supervisor indicated that the air compressor which was ordered should arrive the week of June 7th. He has received the air dryer. He stated that that weed spraying will be delayed until next week because of the weather and the clerk was instructed to change the notice on the web site reflecting the change.

Dave indicated that adding four inches of gravel to Brunner Road would cost approximately $7,300. Part of that goes by Brunmeier property to access a house back there and he talked to them and they indicated that if Dave put the gravel down they would be willing to contribute $1,100.

Dave Mueller, Law Enforcement Officer then gave his report on dog matters, burning citation outcome, and clean up on CR and English Lake and Custer Street.

Zoning Administrator, Mike Slattery submitted his report and asked the Board if they wanted to receive the report in person or if e-mailing it was acceptable. He was told that e-mailing was fine so that if the Board had any questions they could then ask them at the meeting. Supervisor Behnke questioned Mike about the old Chizek house on Northeim Lane if the same is torn down that the set backs are adhered to which Mike agreed.

Supervisor Kevin Behnke had talked to the Recycling Attendants asking about the dumpster which is taking the large items. Presently one cash box is used for all of the money received at the Recycling Center which does not allow the Board to know if our costs are covered for the large dumpster. Kevin questioned how often the dumpster was emptied and Dave indicated it generally was every two weeks. Kevin stated the town is not in it to make money but we should try to cover our costs for the dumpster. He proposed having a separate cash box with a startup amount of $100. so that the Board is aware of the income and expense of the large item dumpster. The treasurer indicated that there is $240. start-up money in the original box. Paulette Vogt, Treasurer suggested that one box be used for just the purchase of bags and another box for the rest of the money. Kevin will talk to the operators at the Recycling Center about this matter and this will be an agenda item for next month.

The next item to be discussed is the matter of jake braking. Denise was told that there is no state law about jake braking on any roads and therefore it is enforceable. To display a no jake braking sign there are three requirements: an ordinance; post signs on all affected roads; hire a law enforcement person to enforce it and write a citation. If the town would post such signs it makes one liable since you are taking a safety feature away in a vehicle that is in use for the safety of the driver and other vehicles. All farm equipment is exempt and there is no way to enforce no jake braking. Any “no jake braking” signs that are in the Town of Newton should be taken down.

Chairman Thomas asked Roger Busse if he would cut the lawn as he has done in the past and he indicated he would. Chairman Denise Thomas made a motion that the Town hire Roger Busse to cut lawn at a rate of $10.50/hour. Supervisor Mark Knorr seconded the motion which carried.

The Town has decided to look into changing banks because of issues with Bill Pay. Our attorney indicated that the Town Board could change banks if they desired. Supervisor Behnke indicated that every employee should have direct deposit. Treasurer Paulette Vogt explained about ACH banking. She talked about the interest rates and how that works. She will check with the bank about any charges, interest rates and report back to the Board.

After discussion the following road projects were awarded by motion made by Chairman Denise Thomas and seconded by Mark Knorr:

1. Alfson Excavating – Culverts and asphalt patch - $52,615. For culverts on roads Carstens Lake Road, Hecker Road, Northeim Road, Clover Road and two culverts on Gass Lake Road.

2. Scott Construction, Inc. – asphaltic chip seal surfacing - $47,020. on portions of roads at Huebner Lane, Clover Road, Sunset Lane, Bonde Court, S. Union and Willever Lane.

3. Manitowoc County Highway Dept. - $35,285.62, guard rail on Gass Lake Road, asphalt patches on portions of Harley Drive, Northeim Road, Scheffler Road, Union Road and the Transfer Station.

Supervisor Mark Knorr made a motion to approve the check report submitted previously to the Board. Supervisor Kevin Behnke seconded the motion which carried.

There being no further business to come before the meeting Chairman Denise Thomas made a motion to adjourn. Said motion was seconded by Supervisor Kevin Behnke and passed.

Barbara Pankratz, Clerk